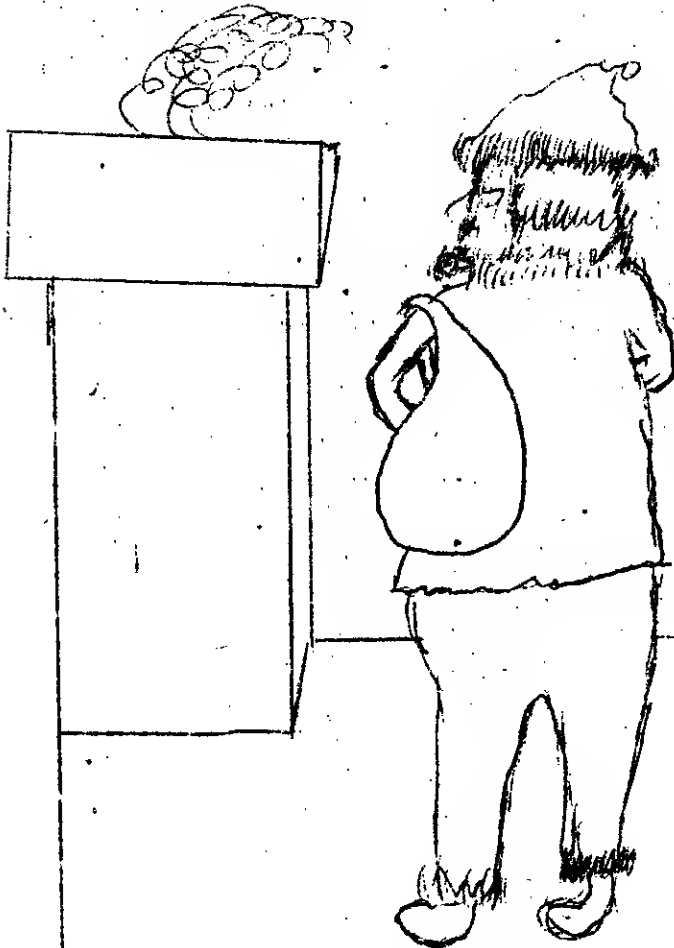


# THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE #9

29 December 1973

A MIXUMAXU GAZETTE  
QUANTITY PUBLICATION  
#10



"You Diplomacy players aren't going to get any presents this year. You've been very bad, stabbing me in all my games."

Notes

((Les mots de l'éditeur sont comme ça.))

Herb Barents((157 State Street, Zeeland, Mich. 49464)): I read with interest your idea of the Herb Barents Hoax. Needless to say, the hoax is still alive and well. You see, Herb Barents is just a figment of your mind((which itself probably does not exist)) or is it that you are a figment of Herb Barents'? That is the question. ((But Shakespeare was a figment of Marlowe's mind.)) Is reality real or a hoax? This is an interesting question, but then why do we belong to this timeline?((I'm getting a headache.)) Herb Barents belongs to all timelines((and nausea.))

My \$2.50 will be in the mail next weeks((why am I sending money to myself?))

Doug Beyerlein(3934 S.W. Southern, Seattle, Wash. 98136)) 19 Nov. 1973:... I agree that the seven countries are not exactly equal, but I have found through experience that it is the player and the country that is important in the long run. A few years ago, England and Turkey were the top countries, now it is Russia, and if we could get Conrad((von Metzke)) to stop playing Austria I think it would be one of the strongest countries on the board. Wins will balance out when the majority of players know how to play the interior countries.(Germany, Austria and Italy) but with such a high turnover of new players, it is going to be a while.

((Agreed, when the player is, say, Birsan, competing against 6 newcomers, he is going to win. The turnover rate in Diplomacy fandom(which compares with that of sf fandom) is such that this will be the case for a long time. But when seven people of approximately equal ability play, England and Turkey and Russia will win more than an average number of games. To say that it is the player that counts is like observing that Bobby Fischer can beat me in a game of chess. Since in Diplomacy, the best will play in the same game as the worst, your statement becomes meaningless. It still takes more skill to win as Italy than as England. And furthermore, I predict that the turnover rate will never decline significantly..

((Furthermore, if the countries are of approximately equal strength, the MG system will show this.))

To correct a few statements... a player who either wins or draws a game cannot lose in the ODD system. This is because whenever the difference between two scores is over 500 pts. it is considered a difference of 500 pts. for computational purposes. This is also true when the maximum number of pts. that can be lost to another player is 100 points( $50+500/10$ ). Another mistake you made, although a minor one, was that Buchanan's Calhamer Point Count Listing(CPCL) has a country weight factor. It does not. The system that does is maintained by Calhamer and is called Calhamer's Weighted Calhamer Point Count Listing((no doubt by analogy with the NFFFCBDD)), as is to be expected.

The idea of modifying the ODD system, as you have... is not one. In theory, it is as easy to do as was the original ODD system. However, some very real problems develop. For a start, the ODD system is time dependent. That means that it makes a difference in the order of game finishes. I don't have McCallum's original records to go back and recalculate the whole thing. Nor for that matter do I have the time. The final problem is that country strengths change after every game finished, and thus the calculations are nearly doubled.(Once for the players, and once for the countries.). And as you will notice for ODD it does not include the country ratings. These problems can certainly be overcome, but the cost would be staggering. In fact, to start any new rating system these days, even with a computer, is an extremely large undertaking.

((First off, as there are over 250 games to be taken into account, the ratings would not shift much for a single game. The shift would change the scoring by, at a maximum, 0.8 points. At this level, it is possible to ignore the shift in games won by a country for several months. Possibly three times a year is how often the scoring will have to be changed before it deviates.

(( Secondly, there is no real reason why this system cannot be applied to the ODD starting now; assume that we have only reached the point where the actual values of the different countries can be calculated without a large degree of error.))

Conrad von Metzke (P.O.B. 8342, San Diego, Ca. 92102; 15 Nov. 1973): ... As most of you are aware, several months ago I was removed from a postal Diplomacy game in which I was an active player by its gamesmaster, one Charles Reinsel, on the basis of a lengthy list of charges he prepared and mailed rather widely. Among the charges were such things as homosexuality, mistreatment of wife and mother, scandalous personal habits, and some rather more prosaic misdemeanours like cheating, lying, stealing and telling other players in the game the truth. This event was rather thoroughly documented at the time, and the results speak for themselves: fifteen resignations from Mr. Reinsel's games in protest, denunciations in (at last rough count) 31 fanzines, and a general attitude of 'hands-off' towards Mr. Reinsel's game openings.

At the time of this action, Mr. Reinsel made quite a point of the uniqueness of this action "(I) have never done this before, and (I) will never do this again." History, however, will have to show a different story.

((If I may take a few lines here, reading through back issues of John Boardman's Graustark leads me to believe that Reinsel tried to run John out of the hobby in '68 or '9, due to his then anti-war stance. John, is this a correct conjecture?))

On Oct. 13, 1973, Charles Reinsel removed another player for reasons equally unrelated to the specific game. The player was John Boyer, well-known gamesmaster and widely respected figure in this hobby. The circumstances are essentially these:

Late in September, Mr. Reinsel was removed as a player from game 1962A, which is being run in a round-robin gamesmasterial situation by, among others, Boyer, Reinsel and myself. The charge was violation of the house rules (deception of the gamesmaster), and after a warning letter went unanswered, the boom was lowered. At that time Mr. Boyer made a vehement protest on behalf of Mr. Reinsel, and after the fact continued his protest to such an extent that the expulsion was put to a vote of the players. The vote upheld the expulsion.

In the meantime, however, Reinsel had issued an ultimatum of his own. He demanded that all players in 1962 A resign in protest of the action, in much the same manner that many of his players had earlier resigned from his games. Furthermore, declared Reinsel, any player who did not resign would be expelled from games run by Reinsel. Operatively, this meant John Boyer; no other player in 1962A was active in any Reinsel game. A deadline of Oct. 13 was set for the resignations; when none were forthcoming, Mr. Boyer was expelled from a game for which he had paid a fee and in which he held a probable winning position.

Now I sincerely believe that we can not afford to tolerate such arbitrary and insane antics in our ranks. It seems obvious that such behaviour is highly destructive to the enjoyment of postal gaming, and to the spirit of community which pervades our play. Those of us with some experience in the field will not be grossly affected, of course; we have long seen Reinsel for what he is, and will be unlikely to flock to his games in the future. (It is significant that of the 31 published excoriations of his first expulsion ((quotes on expulsion please)), only three came from 'newcomer' publishers.) But novices and recent initiates will not know of the past, and will not be able to judge from the experiences we of longer tenure have had. I submit that it is our duty to prevent their running afoul of Charles Reinsel lest their enthusiasm for and participation in the game be affected fatally without due cause.

In the USA and Canada all new Diplomacy sets sold include a prin-  
((continued on P.10))

Press Release 1973 FY

Easton, Pa.(WOMB): A heinous crime was perpetrated today by the infamous El Erogeous. It occurred in the regional offices of Kinky, Leadhead and Boredalot(ostensibly Lafayette College but actually a tax-free haven for the organization). The true head of the company, Bobby "Kid Mouth" Tonolip was reading an anthology of 1273 science fiction stories written by authors whose last names started with

the letter Szk. While in a trancelike state caused by memorizing the list of acknowledgements, El Erogeous attacked Tonolip and ripped his clothes off. She then killed him by that most horrible of ritual murders THE DEATH OF ONE THOUSAND AND ONE HICKEYS. A note was left on his body. It said" Bobby"Kid Mouth" Tonolip has been executed not only for his continual heterosexual advances towards girls of the female persuasion but for foisting on the world that unfillable zine used as an outlet for his demented ramblings THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE."

Tonolip will have a funeral as soon as the undertaker can remove the grotesque smile from his face. A collection taken among his friends has resulted in enough money to purchase a "Sears Best" 60 gallon garbage can as a coffin. Debate rages whether to bury him in the family plot or leave him out for the Easton Garbage Dept. of Sanitation. Tonolip will be interred wearing a seersucker...

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WEPLANTEM FUNERAL HOME...

a faint heartbeat has been found in the body of Bobby "Kid Mouth" Tonolip. While doctors worked feverishly to save him, Tonolip was heard to faintly murmur "More, more"

Woodmere, LI( from the offices of Kinney,Lipschowitz& Boringman: Synthesists) STUDIES INDICATE THAT TIMELINE DIP-1973-FY IS APPROACHING CRITICAL LEVEL IN INDETERMINATURE. IF CERTAIN TENDENCIES AS EXEMPLIFIED BY RELEASES FROM INCAUTIOUS SOURCES ARE NOT CURBED, A SCENARIO, RESEMBLING THIS FOLLOWING EXAMPLE TO WINTHI 98.09123% WILL HAVE A 0.99872902 PROBABILITY OF NECESSITY TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE TIMELINE:

Greenfield, Indiana: The tall man knocked on the door of the farmhouse and asked, in cultured tones, " I am here to speak with the commander of the Austrian forces."

The woman who had answered the door stared at him for a minute. "You crazy or something, Mister?"

The visitor showed her a photo. "Do you know this man?" "Sure, that's-"No names, please. May I speak with him? Tell him it is...a reporter from the Mixumaxu Gazette."

The woman hurried away and returned shortly with an ugly man. "You're not-"

"No names, please. I'm not who you think I am. Is there someplace we might speak in private." Silently, the ugly man showed the visitor into a small room, the most prominent object being a pile of green confetti.

"Let us not bandy words," said the visitor." It is a fact that you are the secret power behind the throne of Austria on timeline DIP-1973-FY."

"So?"

"Your poorly timed news releases are threatening th stability of that line. You will cease issuing such, or you will be forced to stop."

"Ha haha," laughed the ugly man evilly." I was expecting this!" A burst of flame consumed the visitor. The flame continued for five minutes then, with a smile, the ugly man pushed a button. The smile disappeared when the flames did so, leaving the visitor unharmed.

"How?"

The visitor laughed quietly. "I am the servant of One who is as far above your puny governments as the eagle is above the worm. He might have chosen to destroy all of Europe, but He is merciful and will spare His world." He raised his arm.

"You don't mean..." the ugly man started, but his voice trailed off as he dropped to the floor, dead.

Weston, Pa(RIP-OFF)-Our undercover agent PU 2 recently received word from WOMB that a Mr. Tonolip was attacked by a former "Miss Venus" who goes under the name El Erogenous. Radio Station WHC1 had on the scene some reporters at the attempted autopsy. They reported that El Erogenous miscounted the hickeys and gave him two extra. This perplexed the coroner, since a strange local law prohibits examining the insides of an improperly executed body. It was decided that a stamp of approval on the death certificate for a cause of accidental death would be issued, pending a suit by Stinky, Skrewhead and Bordello of WoodWhere Short Island. It was noted that Tonolip's two front teeth were just beginning to emerge when he was annihilated. And now a late word from the Lafayette College of Sanitary Engineering. It was announced today that they would not accept the body, nor would the garbage collection agency. They did, however, agree to confiscate the mimeograph and remaining stocks of legal sized green paper. It was mentioned that if the heart continued to act up, it would have to be removed and placed as a mouth guard on the corpse. In spite of recent developments, we still cannot say what the ultimate fate of the body will be.

Woodmere, L.I.(from the Offices of Kinney, Lipschultz & Boringman: Synthesists): EXECUTE PLAN 1902.198 AL WITH THE FOLLOWING AMMENDMENTS

AFTER CARRYING OUT FIRST HALF OF 1902.198AL PROCEED TO EASTON, PA. THERE YOU WILL DISCOVER A SMALL, LOUD-MOUTHED JACKASS WITH AN EYEGLASS-MUSTACHE DISGUISE KIT. YOU WILL CARRY OUT PLAN 872.10 KM UPON THIS PERSON. EXECUTION CODE 290.PLK.\*!@K!1A. EXECUTE.

Easton, L.I.(IDUNNO): The diplomacy world was shocked today by the mysterious death of two of its newer members, M. Pierre Corne and Rudolph Tate.

Fortunately, no one is upset, as neither of these people were well-known. Said M. Corne's mother: "Qui?", a sentiment echoed by the world.

Polls have become rather popular in the Diplomacy press. Therefore, to get an idea of my readership and what it wants for the Mixumaxu Gazette, I am conducting the following poll:

1)((choose one))

- A. My mental age is under two years
- B. My mental age is between two and four
- C. My mental age is between five and seven.
- D. I cannot tell you my mental age because the Martians are after me.

2)((choose one))

- A. My yearly income is under \$2600/annum
- B. between \$2600 and \$5199/ annum
- C. between \$5200 and \$10,000/annum
- D. What income?

3) I think the Mixumaxu Gazette is((choose one))

- A. The greatest piece of literature in the world.
- B. The greatest piece of literature in the Indo-European language family

(continued on P. 12)

### Pay-As-You-Come

Diplomacy magazines handle their fee structures in two ways. One, the gamefee, is the system I use. Basically, the player pays a lump sum, varying from \$3 to \$15 and receives for his money the gamesmaster's work and all issues of whatever magazine the game appears in until the end of the game.

Opposed to this is the "pay as you go" method. A player puts down a deposit and agrees to maintain a subscription as long as he is in the game. Often there is a small gamefee tied in with this, ranging from 50¢ to \$2.

Each system, naturally, has its advantages. If you are wiped up in a game quickly, a pay-as-you-go system is better. As one gentleman said "You have not paid the sum of \$7.50 for the privilege of being stomped upon." To its disadvantage is the fact that, with less money invested and with the necessity for paying more, a person who would drop out is more likely to do so. The loss is not as great.

In comparison to this, with the gamefee, one might have to cough up ten or more dollars at a time. Not a large amount, surely, but when the majority of players are highschool and college students, such a sum may be difficult to come up with.

On the other hand, as it may happen, suppose a game lasts ten years thirty seasons. The rates of the Punch, the best play-as-you-go zines has subscriptions at 10 issues for \$2 (20¢/issue), and runs the moves of each game every third issue. In effect, if you are paying for the game, each move is costing you 60¢. Figure it out for 30 moves and you wind up with the sum of \$18.

Depending on the total fee therefore, the publisher should decide which payment system he wishes to use. If the fee will be less than, say, \$8, the gamefee is best. Above that, however, the pay-as-you-go is preferable. And makes winning a liability.

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### Feudal Diplomacy

Since the turnout for the variant EE was so great, I'm going to offer another. The game is played thusly. I get seven people. I then toss the names of all thirty four supply centers into a hat and draw out three per player. These three are each player's home supply centers. Next come Winter 1400 builds, in which the player decides what units he wants in each center. If no orders come through, I will build armies in all of them. Next comes Spring 1401 moves, followed by Fall, all normal Diplomacy.

If a player has no supply centers that border on water, if and when he takes his first supply center that borders on the seas, he may declare that a home supply center in exchange for his home supply center nearest the new one.

Gamefee: \$5 unless you trade with me or are already playing in one of my games, in which case the fee is \$2.50.

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What's unhealthy for human beings: saccharine, sugar, cyclamates, lead, too much oxygen, too little oxygen, mercury, tobacco, pot, booze... it seems a miracle that anyone manages to live more than a few days. The theory of Universal Paranoia, that everything is out to get you, seems to have a lot going for it.

Add to the list of all things that will kill you: Bowling pins. In Lowville, N.Y. 47 people were laid off their jobs as bowling pin painters because a compound used in the paint, called MOCA is suspected of being a carcinogen.

I don't know about cancer, but it has been shown that people who don't eat die. But better than cancer. (New York Times 23 Aug. 1973.)

As long as we're all here, I feel it is only fair to warn you The Mixumaxu Gazette is a magazine of postal Diplomacy and whatnot, published by Robert Bryan Lipton, most of the time living at Box 360, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. 18042 (and if you think it's easy to cram a 200-lb. man and a mimeo machine into a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cubic foot box, you are wrong.) He is, however, presently residing at the family estate, 556 Green Place, Woodmere, N.Y. 11598, where he will remain until the final third of January. Subscriptions to this mishemegosh are 6/\$1, and back issues are 5/\$1, but I don't have any here. You'll have to wait a month. I have openings in a variant game. For details, see p. 6.

I'm happy to announce that we've a new staff member, a letter-graph model C, a mimeo machine. He will greatly aid our staff in inflicting this upon you. This machine printed this entire issue, don't blame me.

I'm taking it easy now, on my winter solstice vacation. Normally you would see Postal Diplomacy games 1972 CV, 1973 EN, 1973ER, 1973 FY and MG 4. Also is a variant game called EE 1, awaiting a Miller # from Burt Labelle. As I was saying, normally these games would be running here, but due to the crummy service we get from the post office this time of year, all deadlines have been postponed to 18 Jan. 1974.

In the meantime, let me offer the hope that all you goyim had a nice time during your pagan Solstice holiday. By the time you read this it will be next year, so I hope you had a good time New Year's Eve.

Circulation of this narcissist rag is a little above 60.

Abyssinia,  
*Robert Bryan Lipton*  
Robert Bryan Lipton

P.S. A number of people have asked me where I got the name for this 'zine. The first person, except for those whom I have already told, you sends in the source, will win a five-issue subscription extension. RBL

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As I sit here, typing this, I'm listening to Gilbert & Sullivan's Patience, their satire on the pre-Raphaelite movement. I have been able to track down recordings of almost all the operas, with the exception of The Sorcerer. If anyone out there knows where I can get a recording, on record or reel-tape, I would appreciate knowing.

By the way, about a dozen years ago, Martyn Green directed the Mikado for television with Groucho Marx as Ko-Ko. The text and songs are badly butchered, but to hear Groucho sing "Derry down Derry" is a delight. If only Margeret Dumont had played Katisha. Let's see, Zeppo as Nanki-Poo, Chico as... Pooh-Bah? Harpo as... The mikado? Listening to the recording of this, I'm surprised at how closely Gilbert's humour resembles the Marx Brothers's, but if they had been Savoyards during Gilbert's lifetime, think of the problems! The Marxes ad libbed continuously, and Gilbert usually was adamant that the text be followed.

Pinafore with the Marxes: Groucho as Sit Joseph Porter, Zeppo as Ralph Rackstraw, Chico as Dick Deadeye and Harpo as Captain Cocoran and, of course, Margeret Dumont as Buttercup. Casting for the other operettas are left up to you. But the casting is simple. Transposing the lines for Harpo are difficult.

If anyone is interested, I could put the Groucho Mikado on for him, but the record is scratched.

Letters (continued from p. 5)

ed list of 26 gamesmasters active postally, for purposes of entering this aspect of the hobby. Among these names is Reinsel's, put there originally at my behest. I submit his name should be removed from the list.

Let us write immediately to Games Research Inc. and ask respectfully that Reinsel's name be taken off the list as soon as possible. I have written such a letter; I urge you do likewise. If the same outpouring of revulsion as was earlier shown towards my expulsion ((quotes again)) were communicated to GRI, I imagine they would take the name off the list. But they cannot act on a handful of grumpy letters; this requires widespread action.

I should emphasize that this represents the work of C.F. von Metzke alone and does not represent the appeal of anyone else. In particular, despite the liberal quotations of his name, John Boyer has not been involved in the production of this document.

((A bit of background: this letter was written for gamesmasters in particular. The original version mentioned this several times. I felt that it deserved more widespread publication, and wrote Conrad, asking if I could reprint it. He wrote back agreeing, and noting that I could edit it. I have done so only to the extent of making it more general in its audience. If you object, Conrad, let me know. I don't think I've chopped out anything important.

((For those of you who wish to follow Conrad's suggestion, GRI's address is 500 Harrison Ave., Boston, Mass. 02118. If anyone disagrees and wishes to write a reply, I will print it here and send it on to Conrad ahead of publication.

((Personally, I have heard a little too much of Reinsel, from sources besides Conrad to think he is innocent. I have written a letter to GRI.))

Richard Keller((35760 Niles Blvd., Fremont, Ca. 94536)): Why don't you have a book review section?((I do. It appears whenever I want to review a book, or when someone sends in a review that I publish.))

Brian Davidson((Address withheld by request)) Dec. 13, 1973: Thanks for the copy of my poem as you'll be printing it. I'm glad to see you had the sense to avoid editing it.((I'm glad to see you had the sense to give it a fairly regular rhyme scheme. We're talking about Brian's poem in this issue.))

If you're looking for amusing poetry, may I suggest you check ee cummings? I especially recommend the poem that begins: "May i touch," said he, or somesuch. I have difficulty in remembering cummings punctuations without a copy in front of me.((If there was something by cummings relating to games(of the board variety, that is) I'd be happy to print it. I'll check a collection of cummings poetry.)) You might try the New Yorker magazine.

In the meantime, if you promise not to edit it, I'll turn out a few more poems for you.((I'd like to get some comments on whether or not I should run more of Brian's poems. I like them, but I have no taste at all.))

For the magazine as a whole, the quality is not that high, but it is more amusing than not, and it is interesting how you can turn out so much in such a short time.((It is merely a matter of ordering one's priority. My order is the Mixumaxu Gazette, girls, food, school and sleep, and I shower at least once a week. Bathing is necessary for my second priority.))

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Page 10  
Yakovlev & Bolshakov: More Than I, Uriah Heep

In the middle of finals, my college's literary magazine, The Marquis came out. Since it was free, and since I had a few days during which I didn't have to study, I read through it.

I made a big mistake.

First of all, the poems were not just in free verse, but in that rhymeless scheme that you get when you write a paragraph of prose and then chop it into twenty-three irregular lines. I don't think these "poets know the difference between an anapest and a sonnet."

The prose writers (if it was prose. They might have taken twenty-three lines of irregular free verse and turned it into one paragraph of prose for all I know) seemed to be suffering under the ee cummings syndrome, in that they do not capitalize the first person singular nominative pronoun. However "Planter's Dry Roasted Cashews" is capitalized.

There is one poem, handwritten in the style of a six-year-old in class, writing a paper about her mother (it's called "My Mommy") and illustrating it with stick figures.

Most of these are written by college students, but there is a small section of quotations about girls, taken from the seventh, eighth and ninth grades of Nazareth Junior High School, and on my word of honor, it is the most literate part of the entire magazine.

Why do we have to put up with this mess? The people who write this magazine are, presumably, college students who have managed to graduate their high school English courses. They have, I assume, parsed a few sentences, written a few ballads or sonnets and many essays for their classes, all of which are judged at least partially on their ability to follow instructions. Yet they turn out pseudo-intellectual poetry.

And I do mean "pseudo-intellectual." There is, as far as I can see, no rhyme or reason (perhaps that's a bad choice of words) to their line-chopping, their exotic syntax or their unbearable spelling.

I am not going to show you an example. We've all come across the "artiste." In Clarion '72, we had one budding writer who started a story with "Spice-enthraling horizon he drifted." He spent a half hour explaining this image to us, then another hour trying to figure out how he could be sent out with each copy to explain it to the uncomprehending reader.

He had been encouraged in this purple prose by a teacher who did not want to destroy his creativity. Why not? Creativity such as this is akin to masturbation. Enjoy yourself at it, if you like, but do not exhibit the result to the world.

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The Mother Tongue

As someone who enjoys playing with words, I am happy to say that there is a book that gives an amusing background on the English language, while being informative. The book is Thomas Pyles' The Origins and Development of the English Language (second edition). It is available from Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich for around ten dollars.

Pyles starts out by giving you some of the theories of the ultimate origin of language: the Ding-Dong theory, the Bow-Wow theory, and others, which he dismisses as being impossible to prove one way or another. He then discusses systems of language notations, then the set-up of English in Old English (600 A.D.-1100), Middle English (1100-1450), and Modern English (1450-). He discusses difference between English' two main branches, British and American, new words, how they are formed and propagated, and the influence other languages have had on our tongue. The discussion is orderly and informative

The footnotes are very amusing. In them, he quotes from the History of Modern Colloquial English (p. 191, footnote 22) and Gracie Allen with equal favor (p. 198 footnote 11.)

One acquaintance, having read this book, told me that, while he used to correct peoples' grammar at home, he does this no longer. Another is composing a fifty-page poem on the English language. I am ready to take a course on Chaucer. An interesting book. Try to track it down.

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#### Letters (continued from p. 10)

\*Doug Reif ((67 Grosvenor Rd., Kenmore, N.Y. 14223)) Dec. 14, 1973: I have finally gotten a chance to look over your stalemate positions in Graustark #301 ((In my article A Progressive Series of Assymetrical Stalemate Positions, successor to articles on Northern and Southern stalemates in Graustark # 268 and #282)) (If you ever considered majoring in Computer Science, don't. The works a real bitch.). It seems to me that possibly all possible stalemate positions (outside of minor variants) have been discovered and published. ((John Beshara, who has also had articles on stalemates, agrees. I think so too.)) What might be a good idea is for someone to gather them together and publish them together. ((I have been thinking of doing that. Tell me, would you be willing to pay 75¢ for these articles, printed on good quality white paper, offset? And would any lawyers in the audience let me know if such a work, revised and expanded, could be copyrighted, or would it be in the public domain, due to the original articles having not been copyrighted?))

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#### Temporary Change of Address

John Hendry, playing in game 1972 CV will be at 17 Price Rd., Peabody, Mass. 01960 from December 19 until January 27.

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You're just not safe, anywhere. In Pretoria, South Africa, a man was in an auto accident. He wound up in a hospital, complete with traction hangings. But he wasn't safe there. Oh, no! He was being taken, complete with the traction equipment on a lorry (apparently some sort of base on which the bed can be rolled about), when the bed, with the accident victim in it, with knocked off in a collision with another lorry. Some people have no luck... (Jamaica Daily Gleaner, 4 July 1973)

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Christmas jokes? Let me think...

Joseph and Mary were going to Bethlehem where the event we all are told in mythology happened, happened. Mary was riding on an asse, while Joseph walked besides.

Suddenly, Joseph stumbled against a stone in the road and fell, scraping his knees. "Jesus!" he cursed.

Mary turned to him and said: "The perfect name for the baby!"

You didn't like that one? Okay, then:

The first Winter after the 1967 War, an Arab tried to get across the Jordan River. An Israeli border guard stopped him.

"Can I?"

"Joseph, sir" said the Arab.

"Destination?"

"Bethlehem, sir."

The guard looked up at the Arab's obviously pregnant wife. "I

### The Lemon Dropout

One of the problems that a gamesmaster has (believe me, there are more than one) is dropouts. Some people will simply stop sending in their moves suddenly, without warning, leaving his allies in the lurch, and perhaps losing the game.

My first game, 1971 EC is a case in point. The game was stalemated, it appeared, until Italy made a move that allowed me, as England to guarantee myself a fleet in the Tyrrhennian. Next move, the Italians dropped out, a move that permitted me to annihilate two of Italy's fleets and gave the game to the Anglo-German alliance.

Now, most people, when they drop out, drop out of all their games, and leave the hobby. Nothing can be done to these people to make sure that they don't do it again.

However, some people drop out of the games they are losing. Or they drop out entirely and return a few months later.

An individual gamesmaster may blacklist someone from his games because of dropping out another. But there are other publishers.

Therefore, I wish to propose, to any publisher who agrees, the following plan:

If a player drops out of a game (as distinct from a resignation), all agreeing players will put him on 'tenure.' He will not be permitted to standby for any games run by publishers who are in agreement with me for a period of six months. He will not be permitted to join any new games started by publishers who agree to this for one year.

If the person who has dropped out of a game wishes to come back into the standby list or join a game offered by one of the publishers who are part of this agreement, he must either offer the publisher who he has left in the lurch a satisfactory explanation for his actions (I had a heart attack) or, if the publisher is not satisfied, offer the other publishers in this agreement an explanation so that a majority agree he is to be let back in.

Some people may cry: "That's terrible! It discriminates!" It discriminates only against those who louse up games. It is nice to win, but I think it's better to play against the best opposition possible.

Comments would be appreciated.

---

Jokes (continued from p.14)

suppose your wife's name is Mary?"

"Yes, sir."

The soldier's mouth dropped open. "Why are you going to Bethlehem?"

"To pay our taxes, sir."

The Israeli soldier excitedly waved them on. "Go, go to Bethlehem!"

Once the pair had passed out of sight of the soldier, the man turned to the woman, and said: "It worked, Fatima. He thought we were Puerto Ricans."

All, right, I'll stop.

---

Despite what you hear, the U.S. apparently does persecute some religious groups. Out in the Texas prison of Huntsville, Frederick Brown, Sr. complained, and filed a petition to the effect that the prison authorities discriminated against Devil-worshipper, shutting them up in solitary confinement. I think this is wrong. They should not be kept from the other inmates. How are they going to get raw materials for sacrifice otherwise? (Long Island Press, 23 July 1977)

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Although this is the December 29, 1973 edition of the Mixumaxu Gazette, it is being mailed out on the seventeenth of December to all subscribers, traders and players, because I have said all I want to say this time. Comments, especially favorable ones, are always welcome. Once again, take care of yourselves, enjoy the holidays, and get more people to subscribe to The Mixumaxu Gazette. Merry Christmas, happy hanukah, joyeuse noel, and if there are any muslims in the audience, a good what-ever-you-call-your-winter-solstice-holiday to you.

To my friends and enemies in the New York City area: I will be home the afternoon or evening of Dec.22, which is too late for the SPI sessions, but you'll hear from me. And I expect I'll hear from you. But please, if you call me at 516-374-4723, and my mother answers, please don't speak to her the way you speak to me.

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